Attorney Docket Number: 6773USD1

Filing Date: 11/20/01

REMARKS

Applicant hereby submits the above amendments to the claims, wherein Applicant believes that the above amendments place the claims in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration thereof. Claims 5-39 are pending after entry of the above amendments. Claims 1-4 and 62 have been canceled after entry of the above amendments.

The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection, Claims 1-4, 10-11, 15, 37-38, and 62.

Claims 1-4, 10-11, 15, 37-38, and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald (5,824,010).

Applicant hereby submits the above amendments to the claims, wherein the claims have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection. Specifically, Applicant has rewritten, claim 5 into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim from which the objected to claim 5 depended from. As indicated in the above-identified Official Action, objected to claim 5, was considered to be allowable over the art cited if rewritten in independent form. (See paragraph 4, Official Action, 11/8/2005).

Applicant additionally submits the above claim amendments, wherein claims:
6,10,11,15,18,22-24,26 and 37 have been amended to depend from the allowable independent
claim 5 and therefore include all of the limitations of the allowable base claim and are therefore
allowable to the reasons presented in the Office Action

Conclusion

Applicant believes that in view of the claim amendments presented above, the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the present rejection be withdrawn and the application advanced to allowance.

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If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Kelly J. McCrystle at (650) 474-3326.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-0025 for any charges that may be due or credit our account for any overpayment.

23492

ABBOTT LABORATORIES

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Please direct all telephone inquires to: Kelly J. McCrystle reg. no. 46,257

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Respectfully submitted,

Kelly J. McCrystle

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